

e-Bugle

Garrett Bugle Internet Edition

Volume 52

March 2005

No. 3



Calendar

Wed., Mar. 30	Citizens Assoc., Town Hall, 8 pm; nominations for Town Council positions	Sat., Apr. 16	Coffeehouse, Town Hall 8 pm
Thurs., Mar. 31	Jam session, Town Hall, 7 pm	Sun., Apr. 17	Artists reception, 3 pm, Penn Place (see p 4)
Sat., Apr. 2	Last day to register to vote in May elections, Town Office, 8 am–12 pm	Thurs., Apr. 21	Salvation Army pickup
Sun., Apr. 3	Daylight Savings Time begins	Fri., Apr. 22	Film Society, <i>Enchanted April</i> , Town Hall, 8 pm (see p 6)
Wed., Apr. 6	Book Club, Town Hall, 8 pm	Sat., Apr. 23	Large item pickup
Thurs., Apr. 7	Jam session, Town Hall, 7 pm	Wed., Apr. 27	Citizens Assoc., Town Hall, 8 pm; Candidates' Forum
Sun., Apr. 10	Musicale, Town Hall, 4 pm	Sat., Apr. 30	Plant Swap (see p 5); Progressive Dinner (see p 6)
Mon., Apr. 11	Town Council meeting, Town Hall, 8 pm	Sun., May 1	Weed Warrior Day, Porcupine Woods (see p 5)
Tues., Apr. 12	Lunch Bunch, Town Hall, 12:30 pm; <i>Bugle</i> deadline, 4 pm	Mon., May 2	Town Council election

Getting Less Amorphous

"What is our policy on that?" "We do not have a policy."

A number of variations on this theme were sounded during the March meeting of the Town Council. Of course all Town Councils are in large part about setting policy; but the historical context here is that Garrett Park, long a somewhat scatty place, is singing with a score now (to finish out the metaphor).

A case in point was the conversation at the beginning of the meeting about the signs in and

outside the Post Office protesting President Bush's Social Security policies. A citizen attending the meeting questioned the appropriateness of such signs on town property and in the Post Office.

Former Mayor Peter Benjamin noted that the town has "traditionally allowed the space around Penn Place to be used for a variety of town purposes. Basically we've said it's a public forum, which means you have to allow pretty much everything." He suggested that now "we have to make a policy decision."

(continued next page)

Garrett Park Citizens Association
Garrett Park, Maryland 20896-0456

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(continued from previous page)

“It’s inappropriate,” said Councilmember Wegner, “for private signage to be on town property. If it’s in front of my house, then it’s clearly my opinion, as opposed to town property,” where it may seem to be endorsed by the town. The Mayor proposed that the Council reflect on this matter. While it is under discussion, she will ask that the signs be removed for the moment.

In her report, the Mayor announced that at traffic signal at the Strathmore/Kenilworth intersection, pedestrians will soon be able to make the light turn red by pushing a button. (The Mayor mentioned what some of us have noticed: at odd times, the light decides on its own to turn red.)

On the subject of Penn Place, the town is pleased to have received the donation of a system for hanging paintings in the Town Lobby. “Jane Salomon plans to round up townspeople interested in having their artwork displayed there.” The Mayor also made several other proposals for the lobby, including parents’ morning coffee/tea breaks and Sunday afternoon wine tastings (see Mayor’s Letter, p 7).

The Mayor had just returned from an informational meeting about the changes proposed at the site of the ASHA building on Strathmore and the Rockville Pike. One proposed design has single family “products” (once “houses”) along Strathmore to give the development a “Main Street” streetscape. Altogether this plan would produce 112 products, 31 of which would be single family detached houses with detached garages. Seventeen of these would be medium priced; then there would be 64 townhouses along the lines of the King’s Farm development. “A neotraditional streetscape is envisioned,” said the Mayor (as we all—about 10 people were in the audience—pondered this paradox). The proposal envisions “no significant grading of the topography; they plan to preserve the natural bowl area and are committed to preserving most of the mature trees and to maintaining walking areas.”

In Councilmember Reports, Elin Quigley updated us on a massive pipeline project in the works for this area (see p 3). There are nine proposed pipelines close to Garrett Park, and though it “seems unlikely” that the town would be used for any of them, we can’t yet know for sure.

Tony Altar reported that the first announcement of a Council Meeting agenda went out on the Town’s e-mail list. Those of us on the list were also sent a Garrett Park census report, whose tiny columns of type we squinted down to determine how rich we are relative to our neighbors.

Most of Action/Discussion was taken up with a pretty extensive discussion of the FY 2006 Operating and Capital Budget. Your reporter has already warned you that numbers are not her strength. She did determine that much of the discussion was about whether you decide to put estimated expenses in the “operating” or “capital” part of the budget.

Peter Benjamin was particularly concerned with whether we’d put in enough money for lights, given all the new ones along Strathmore. Also, there’s a significant looming expense involving the facing on the retaining walls on Strathmore. We will need an estimate on this quickly, given that we have promised the state we’ll do the work soon after they finish their work.

On another budget item, Councilmember Wegner said he thought this might not be a good time for the town to buy a tractor. The Mayor, however, pointed out that the price of steel is going up every day, and that we probably shouldn’t wait to buy. Ted Pratt seconded her point and scared everyone by saying “This is one of the least scary budgets you’re going to be looking at for years.”

(Discussion of the budget and the effort involved in keeping the town running inspired competitive praise of the town’s groundskeepers. “Last snowstorm they were out till two in the morning.” “No, much later than that.”)

A formal vote on the budget ordinance will take place next month.

Everyone was reminded that there’s a town election coming up. (Soon you’ll be getting a letter encouraging you to vote.) Barbara Shidler will be Chief Election Judge, and Bette Runck, Susan Frant, and Donn Mader will be Associate Judges. The election will be on Monday, May 2, at Penn Place, with a reception at the Town Hall. Voting hours will be 7 to 11, and then 4 to 7:30.

The Mayor then announced the members of the newly formed ad hoc committee on town infrastructure. They are Chris Fischman, Donn Mader, John Bennett, Susan Frant, Dave Almy, and Tony Altar. She and Ted also updated the town on the question of our joining an electrical aggregation group. While the savings would not be all that significant, at least at first, “we would be supporting,” said Ted, “an aggregation that saves the county a lot of money generally.”

Shortly thereafter, the Council went into Executive Session and the rest of us had to scat.

Margaret Soltan

The *Garrett Bugle* is a publication of the Citizens Association of Garrett Park, published 10 times a year. Publication of the *Bugle* is supported by member dues. All residents of Garrett Park are members of the Citizens Association. Yearly dues (\$10 per family or \$5 per individual per address) can be sent to Citizens Association, Box 456, Garrett Park, MD 20896.

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Out-of-town subscriptions cost \$13 (first class) or \$10 (bulk mail). Letters to the editor can be submitted by mail or hand to *Bugle* staff or by e-mail. The editor reserves the right to edit submissions for length and clarity. Unsigned letters will not be printed.

Town Council Nominations

The Citizens Association will host a town meeting on March 30 to take nominations for the three Town Council seats open in this year's election. We will also share news regarding plans for the residential development on the ASHA property at Strathmore and Rockville Pike and the pedestrian-operated light just installed at Kenilworth. Please join us on Wednesday, March 30, 8 pm, at the Town Hall.

Remember also that the Candidates Forum is set for our meeting on April 27.

Town Elections

Election Day in Garrett Park will be Monday, May 2. Three Council seats are up for election to two-year terms. Besides the nominations made at the March 30 Citizens Association meeting, additional nominations may be made by written petition signed by 10 registered voters and filed with the Town Administrator by 4 pm on Monday, April 4.

The last day to register to vote in this election is April 2. To be eligible to vote, you need to be registered with Montgomery County or on the list of qualified noncitizen Garrett Park residents. Absentee ballots will be available upon request at the Town Office.

If you have not voted in the last five years, your name will have been withdrawn from the active file by Montgomery County, and you will need to reregister. You may register at any time by calling the Town Office for the necessary forms (or for address change forms). You may also register in the Town Office during normal office hours. Special registration hours will also be held on Saturday, April 2, from 8 am until noon. Please call the Town Office (301-933-7488) with any questions regarding registration, qualification of voters, nominations, etc.

Big Dig

The basics: WSSC is planning to build an 84-inch diameter underground water pipe from a site near I-270 and I-495 to a site near the Mormon Temple. There are currently nine proposed routes and three construction methods: trench laid pipe, tunneled (250 to 300 feet underground), and a combination of the two.

Garrett Park impact: At this time, several of the proposed routes are along the CSX railroad tracks, the town's north boundary. No other proposed routes go through town. There is only enough room along the tracks for the tunneled pipe, the most expensive option. The closest proposed tunnel shaft for all routes would be at the corner of Georgetown Prep near Tuckerman. Other routes include following the WSSC right of way along 270 and then along 495; Tuckerman and Beach Drive; and Tuckerman and Saul Road.

Timetable: WSSC hopes to have a preferred route by this August. I have been appointed to the citizens' advisory committee, whose first meeting is in early April. I'll keep you posted, but feel free to contact me with questions.

Elin Quigley





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Rummage Sale

The Fire Department Auxiliary of the Kensington Volunteer Fire Department is collecting household items to sell at our April 30 Rummage Sale. We will accept all usable items (except vehicles) between April 23 and 29. Please drop off items inside the garage behind the firehouse at Connecticut Avenue and Plyers Mill Road. For large donations, you can arrange a pickup by e-mail to kvfd00762@kvfd.org.

Thank you for supporting your community fire station.

Lifemember David Contois
Rummage Sale Chairman

We're Green Again!

Our green banner this month is courtesy of John and Thea Miles in honor of Laura Dittman. They enjoy reading about all the happenings in Garret Park in their new home in Rockville. Thank you to our ex-Garrett Parkers for their kindness. We will be green for all of this printing year, thanks to generosity of our readers. However, if anyone would like to start the ball rolling for the 2005/06 printing year, feel free to send a check for \$25 (the minimum donation required) or \$37 (the actual printing cost) to Mary Moyer, Box 98, Garrett Park, or put it in my front porch mail box. Thanks in advance.

Mary Moyer

GPES

We welcomed our new secretary, Mrs. Brogan, to school, and she jumped right into the job with both feet, and then was absent for two days for training. Mrs. Reed, administrative secretary, has returned from Kenya with stories of some very strange meals and different customs.

Kindergarten Orientation is set for April 28 and 29 at the school. Appointments are being set up for parents to bring their future kindergartners for a view of the school and meeting with staff members. If you have a child who will be 5 before September 30, you should sign up for orientation or call the school for a waiver to wait for a year before your child attends kindergarten.

The art department would like the following items if you have any to donate: rolling pins, cookie cutters, plastic containers, old magazines, ribbons, calendars with pictures, and large plastic boxes to store things. Also, a winter mural created by GPES students was on display in the Kensington Library.

Mary Moyer

Greetings from Former Postmaster

We are fine out here in South Dakota. I am still with the USPS (due to retire September 30). Karen has taken up a new career with RSVP (Retired Seniors Volunteer Program) as the Volunteer Coordinator for Rapid City. This means she gets to do all the begging and cajoling needed to fill all the volunteer requirements.

We are in a serious drought and expect the area to go up in smoke this summer, unless we get some moisture above and beyond the norm in the spring. Local excavators are finding no moisture in the soil 8 to 10 feet below the surface. We are already on water restrictions.

Our son took some pictures of Penn Place and sent them to us. It looks like a very successful venture for the Park. We were impressed with what we saw.

We enjoy keeping up with the doings in town. Take care.

Greg Spalding

Arts Notes

What with our coffeehouses and musicales and all, the town has plenty of musical activity; but now the visual arts scene is hotting up here too. The Art at Penn Place Committee is scouting Garrett Park artists who'd like to show their work in the town lobby at Penn Place. To get things started, the Committee invites all interested townspeople to a Garrett Park artists reception, "on the balcony," on April 17, at 3 in the afternoon, at Penn Place.

For more information, call Jane Salomon.

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www.garrettpark.org/



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Arboretum Notes

Three Arboretum Committee members and your Council liaison stepped out into the town streets on chilly March 13 to plan for 13 possible tree plantings on four streets. We will continue to survey the streets to recommend planting unique Arboretum trees later this year. Some of our budgeted Arboretum planting funds were used to plant trees at Penn Place last fall instead of using allocated tree funds from the Penn Place budget. Thus our planting program has been curtailed for this spring.

Nevertheless, we continue to receive important tree donations and a few money donations. By the time you read this, your committee expects to plant some additional American chestnut trees in Porcupine Woods to supplement the 10 thriving saplings planted last fall. We count on these trees to serve as "mother trees" for hardy cross breeding some day, to help expand the gene pool of disease-resistant chestnuts, which will be commercially available starting around 2007.

Kay Hager and former resident Mimi Landos attended the Philadelphia Flower Show on March 8 via a Brookside Gardens bus trip. It was, as usual, spectacular. On March 10, Tom Rodes and Kay Hager walked the Olmsted Woods, located

behind the National Cathedral, which is being restored by the Cathedral's All Hallows Guild with still more native trees. In addition to predominant stately white oaks, they saw a male Mallard duck floating on a tiny pond while there. The Guild's management of native woods is enviable for such an urban location; it's worth taking a guided tour to learn more of their techniques.

See the box below for information about the upcoming Plant Swap. Also, put this date on your calendars: Sunday, May 1: **Weed Warrior Day** in Porcupine Woods.

Gardeners all! Plan to come to the **Earth Day Plant Swap**

Saturday, April 30, 10 am-noon
on the basketball court near Penn Place

Pot your garden overflow and swap it for something else. Or just bring yourself and take home plants for your garden.

Remember: your rampant lily may be someone else's treasure.

For more information, call Kay Hager (949-8882) or Jennie Rothwell (949-2197).

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Springtime Movie

... So many reasons to come to Town Hall, Friday night, April 22 ... First and foremost, to join up to watch the sumptuous *Enchanted April*, as Joan Plowright, Miranda Richardson, Alfred Molina, Josie Lawrence, and others travel to Italy. Four women rent a chateau on a remote Italian island to try to come to grips with their lives and relationships. What starts out as a social drama ends as a pleasant, enjoyable, and not very mysterious comedy. Its magic is its simplicity, insight, and optimism.

Cancel that. First and foremost has got to be the food offered by Chris Petito, another guest chef from Garrett Park. Lawyer by day (and often by night), Chris is finding time to offer up Tuscan delights, including pollo affinocchiato (braised chicken with almonds and fennel seeds); pasta ai quattro formaggi (baked pasta with four cheeses); insalata verde (green salad); spinaci alla romana (spinach with pine nuts and raisins); and torta fregolata (almond shortbread). The price for the dinner hasn't been set, but it will be in line with our past prices. Of course, we'll also have some good Italian wines to go along with the meal and some usual movie foods, including popcorn. Chris will probably prepare food for 30 to 40 meals, so come early!

The best reason of all to come to the film is to help celebrate Chris and Henri Keller's anni-

versary. They are the first family to join the Film Society as "film sponsors" and have selected to sponsor *Enchanted April*. Please help us thank them for their generosity.

Enchanted April will be shown at the Garrett Park Town Hall, Friday night, April 22. Dinner will be offered beginning at 7:15 pm. The film will follow at 8 pm. There is no charge for members of the Film Society for the movie. Nonmembers may pay \$5 per person or \$10 per family at the door.

Thanks from GIVES

Seventy some people (including a number of children) attended the GIVES Soup Supper at the Town Hall on Sunday, March 6, 2005. Besides the opportunity to sample many delicious homemade soups and breads, there was hometown music provided by Dave Almy, his twin brother Steven, and Ken Ingham. Jack Malinowski from the American Friends Service Committee, Philadelphia, spoke about the committee's international projects and some in the U.S. This is where half of our contributions go. The good news is we collected approximately \$1000! Thank you, thank you, and thank you again for making this a success. Watch for us in the P.O. lobby the first Saturday of each month.

Glenda Ingham and Karen Anderson

Progressive Dinner

All adult residents are invited to participate in the Progressive Dinner on Saturday, April 30. This year we'll all meet at the Town Hall at 6 pm for appetizers and small group assignments for the successive meal courses (salad course, main course, and dessert). Participants will be assigned as couples, singles, or triples. (Invite an unattached neighbor to go along with you!) You are asked to either serve as a host (offering your house) or to provide food for one of the courses.

As always, we anticipate the need for houses and would love for you to consider being a host. We will try to accommodate all types and sizes of houses. (Smaller houses are appropriate for buffet-style salad courses and larger houses for main courses and desserts.) Indicate your top three preferences below. Return forms by *Monday, April 18, please*. People need some time to know their assignments.

☐ Yes, I/we would like to participate in the 2005 Progressive Dinner.

Name(s): _____
Address: _____
Contact e-mail: _____
Phone: _____

Choose your top three preferences among these six options, indicating first, second, and third choices.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Host appetizer course at Town Hall | <input type="checkbox"/> Provide appetizer (for 16 to 20 people) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Host salad, main course, or dessert course at my house | <input type="checkbox"/> Provide salad (for 10 to 12 people*) |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Provide main course (for 10 to 12 people*) |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Provide dessert (for 16 to 20 people) |

*There will probably be two salads and entrees per house.

Comments: _____

Participants are asked to contribute \$5 per person to cover costs of providing some beverages, paper goods, name tags, etc. Please return forms to Box 558, Garrett Park.

Questions: Elin Quigley Deadline: Monday, April 18, please.
Additional signup forms and drop-off envelope will be available in the Post Office.

Letter from the Mayor

I thank everyone who joined me at the Post Office on Saturday, March 12. I had a busy time talking with many of you. Forty people gave me their e-mail addresses to join the town e-mail list. One resident told me that she was pleased to have the agenda of the Council meeting. She didn't think anything sounded interesting, but it was nice to know what was going on! Well over half of the households in town are on the e-mail list. Our state delegation members have asked to be included as well. If you have not gotten on the list and would like to do so, please contact Martin Trocki. I thank him and Councilmember Altar for getting this program going.

I am happy to announce that as of March 21 the traffic signal at the Strathmore/Kenilworth intersection should be pedestrian activated: that is, you will be able to push a button to make the light turn red.

Several things are beginning to be planned for the use of Penn Place.

1. Jane Salomon has agreed to find town artists to exhibit their work in the Penn Place Town Lobby on the street level. Jane has recommended a hanging system, which an anonymous donor has given to the town. She will hang each exhibit. Nancy Schwartz, Jane, and I met last week to create the structure for the program. We liked Jane's idea of a "grand opening" party to begin the exhibitions, with one picture from each of the eight artists who will be selected for the first year. Of course, the whole town will be invited. Each artist's work will be shown for 45 days.
2. I have noticed that there are many new citizens in town who have a stay-at-home parent. I would like to start a once a month Monday morning coffee/tea break, because many of the parents are also fairly new to town as well.

Nancy has suggested that those of us who are a bit more "grandparently in appearance" should be invited as well. So those who would like to come, do it! Bring the little critters, too. I hoping to get this started by the end of March or the first weekend of April. I bought the coffee today.

3. Also is in the works is an occasional wine-tasting on a Sunday afternoon for adults.
4. There might be a Sunday afternoon spring ice cream event as well.

Watch for announcements about all the above!

At the last Town Council meeting, a question was raised about allowing political topics to be promoted at Penn Place. The Council is thinking about how this should be handled. One resident has proposed the Garrett Park Speaker's Corner. If you have ever spent a Sunday afternoon in Hyde Park, London, you know that it can be quite fun, thought provoking, and interesting. If you have ideas about this topic, please let me or a Councilmember know.

Carolyn Shawaker

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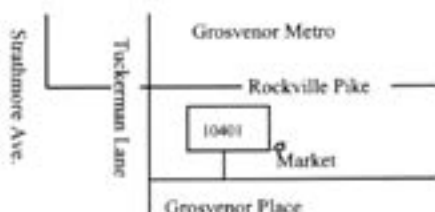
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Bugle Notes . . . Sweet and Sour

- ♪ The Bortman Memorial, slated for March 26 at the Town Hall, has been canceled.
- ♪ Ronald Burns Ross died February 24 of congestive heart failure at a retirement facility in Frederick. Burns, a Garrett Park native of 25 years before moving to Frederick in 1980, was a member of the Freemasons and was on the board of deacons of Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church. A chemist by profession, he worked for Dominion Rubber Company in Ontario and for DuPont Chemical in New York. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Jane, and two children: David Alexander Ross of Oregon, and Barbara Ann Ross of Lutherville, Maryland.
- ♪ Peter Kratz had a shocking experience recently. He was the young man who was shocked while attending to his dog on the Strathmore concert hall grounds. Peter, a physician and volunteer paramedic, knew just what to do to get his pet, Lupa, breathing again. The power lines have since been fixed.
- ♪ The Co-op Nursery School has openings in the fours class for the 2005–06 school year. Call 301-933-5254 for information.
- ♪ We received a suggested *Bugle* note concerning trash cans being left out at the curb after the trash collectors have come by, thus marring the beauty of Garrett Park. We would have been happy to print it, but it was not signed. Please remember to sign any contributions to the *Bugle*.
- ♪ Now that Glenda and Ken Ingham are in the grandparenting business, they are looking for a baby crib in good condition. If you can help, please call them.

Obituary

Esther and Ralph Bortman

Esther and Ralph Bortman, 55-year residents of Garrett Park, died recently—he, at 84, of a stroke, in December, and she, age 85, of pneumonia, in February. They were the original residents of their house on Weymouth, having moved there in 1951.

A graduate of Brooklyn College, Mr. Bortman began his working life with the U.S. Weather Bureau; he then founded a paving business, and finally owned a stone quarry in West Virginia. A man of many interests and great energy, he was a member of the Town Council, the first president of the Garrett Park swimming pool (he was instrumental in getting it built), and a Democratic precinct chairman for precinct 4. He enlisted Girl Scouts to leaflet Garrett Park during presidential election years. He also took watercolor classes

with Martha Siegel, had a show of his paintings in the Town Hall not too long ago, and helped Martha hang a number of shows representing various local artists in the Town Hall.

Esther Bortman, a homemaker, was active in the Garrett Park Elementary School PTA and in her local Brownie/Girl Scout Troop, as well as in Women's Strike for Peace. She was a volunteer at Strathmore Hall for several years.

Both of the Bortmans were world travelers. In addition, they raised orchids in their own greenhouse and were members of the National Orchid society.

They are survived by their children, Ellen McMurdie and Henry Bortman.